

### **Specification Amendment**

On page 2 of the specification, please replace the first paragraph with the following paragraph:

In ~~co-pending U.S. patent application Serial Number 10/658,029, filed September 9, 2003~~ Patent No. 6,804,439, a method is described for laser welding a plastic ferrule to a plastic-jacketed optical fiber cable. A layer of material absorptive to radiation at a predetermined wavelength is coated on the optical fiber jacket. The ferrule is selected to be substantially transparent to the predetermined wavelength and receives the cable. When a laser irradiates the assembly, the coating material creates a weld pool extending generally equally into the jacket and ferrule to bond the ferrule to the cable.